

The ArchLou Deacon

DIACONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE | MARCH-APRIL 2026



From the Diaconal Director

Dear Friends, My Dear Companions on the Journey,

Ongoing formation sustains a deacon's life of service by actively involving their wives through support and inclusion, thereby fostering the unity of sacramental vocations.

— cf. National Directory, no. 149



Recently, I have spoken with many deacons and priests about the importance of ongoing formation. Before going further, please understand that I, too, struggle every day to make heaven my home. There is no reason to think I have everything together or that I am better than anyone else. I am likely struggling along the journey just like many of you.

One grounding point for me is keeping my own faults and failings in full view when offering perspective or correction. Seeing them clearly helps me embrace the need to “eat the whole humble pie.” While our missteps can contribute to growth, it is essential to engage proactively in prayer, contemplation, and meditation. These practices build on our foundational formation, foster ongoing conversion, and strengthen fidelity to our individual vocations. Ultimately, they help us align our lives ever more closely with Jesus Christ, the servant. Our ministry should cultivate pastoral charity, ensure effectiveness in our work, and allow us to be exemplars of holiness for those we encounter and accompany.

Deacon Mark Preischel, the companion couples, and I are developing ways to help candidates in diaconal formation understand that ongoing formation is a lifelong process essential for clerics and consecrated religious alike. They must learn this now. Likewise, given the vital role of the deacon's wife in ministry, ongoing formation is also indispensable for laypersons who serve the Church through ministry, evangelization, and discipleship.

The leadership of our local Church implores you not to turn away from opportunities for ongoing formation. Recognize how it builds upon the initial formation we have received—our catechesis, the discipleship models we have followed, and our lived experience of the evangelical beatitudes. As we engage people in parishes, communities, and workplaces, we discover that these varied experiences shape an itinerary of lifelong growth.

Be reminded that after every healing or encounter, the Lord withdrew to the mountain to pray. This is why I always ask about the rhythms of prayer, because daily life demands intentional time with God. Let us always seek to configure ourselves to Christ, offering our lives in total oblation to the Father. In doing so, we become more effective in supporting those who are isolated, marginalized, incarcerated, or facing profound hardship. ✠

—F. DeKarlos Blackmon

Archdiocese of Louisville Diaconal Ministry

Deacons, as ministers, are not exempt from the missionary obligation of the universal Church. Hence, deacons should always remain open to the *missio ad gentes* [mission to the nations] to the extent that professional or family obligations permit (cf. *Directory for the Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons*, §27).

Archbishop

Most Rev. Shelton J. Fabre

Director

Dr. F. DeKarlos Blackmon, OblSB

Associate Director

Deacon Mark A. Preischel

Secretary

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Diaconal Ministry promotes the Diaconate by disseminating pertinent information, selecting and training candidates, providing opportunities for continuing education, and coordinating the pastoral supervision of ordained permanent deacons. In addition Diaconal Ministry provides support for the wives, widows, and families of the deacons.



From the Associate Director for Diaconal Formation

This Lenten season reminds us that we are called to the cross. But this is true not just during Lent but every day. Jesus tells us, “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me (Mt 16:24).” Commentary tells us that this word deny essentially means to disown. So, to deny oneself means disowning one’s self and recognizing that we are not the center of our existence. Our hope comes from our faith in the saving death and resurrection of Jesus (OCF para 8).



Jesus has conquered death and it does not have the final say. But that does not mean that when death occurs it is easy for those who are left behind. This is in part why we are asking deacons and wives to complete a funeral form [which can be found online]. As deacons and wives, we often deal with families whose loved one failed to prepare and provide instructions on their funeral wishes. We can help the family to choose options that are appropriate, familiar and that help them start to address their grief. But as deacons and wives you probably already know what your funeral will look like. By completing the funeral form, you will be leaving one less item your grieving family to deal with.

One last piece of information regarding cremations. The Church has specific requirements surrounding cremation. The Catechism reminds us that “the bodies of the dead must be treated with respect and charity, in faith and hope of the resurrection (CCC para. 2300).” The Church urges that the deceased’s body be at least present for the funeral vigil and mass. Cremation should follow the funeral mass. The cremated remains should be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium accompanied by the Rite of Committal (Directive on Cremation for the Archdiocese of Louisville). If you want to review the entire Directive on Cremation for the Archdiocese of Louisville, you can find it at <https://bit.ly/46Kh85b>.

As always, thank you for your ministry.

Deacon Mark

Ongoing Diaconal Formation

April 25, 2026

Finding Peace in the Chaos of Ministry
Saint Bernard Church, Louisville | 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

May 16, 2026

Anointing of the Sick and Pastoral Care
Flaget Retreat Center, Louisville | 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

August 15, 2026

Healing and Reconciliation
Saint James Church, Elizabethtown | 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

November 7, 2026

Saints as Role Models
Saint Francis Xavier Church, Mt. Washington
8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Calendar of Important Events

March 31, 2026

Chrism Mass
Cathedral of the Assumption, Louisville | 10:30 a.m.

April 11, 2026

Mass with the Rite of Ordination of Deacons
Cathedral of the Assumption, Louisville | 11:00 a.m.

May 30, 2026

Mass with the Rite of Ordination of Priests
Cathedral of the Assumption, Louisville | 11:00 a.m.

June 5-7, 2026

Annual Diaconal Community Retreat
Saint Meinrad Archabbey - Bede Hall

September 26, 2026

Annual Deacon Assembly and Rite of Lector
Holy Spirit Church, Louisville | 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

October 3, 2026

Mass Commemorating 75th Anniversary of Living Rosary
Cathedral of the Assumption, Louisville | 10:00 a.m.

Archdiocese
of Louisville
Ministry Institute

Lynn McDaniel, Coordinator
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(502) 636-0296

ALMI offers formation for lay ministry, including catechist certification. Please make use of this resource for formation in theology, scripture, and pastoral ministry through various modes of instruction to support parish leaders and volunteers. For more information visit <https://www.archlouff.org>.

CARE ^{FOR} THE SICK

Supporting His Calling & Discovering My Own

Wives of deacons provide an encompassing listening presence, helping patients to discern God's will, when accompanying their husbands engaged in Pastoral Care of the Sick.

As one of the corporal works of mercy deacons visit patients, provide support and comfort, proclaim the Gospel, and aid in spiritual preparation, all of which contribute to the comprehensive healing of both body and spirit (cf. *Catechism*, 1509). During diaconal formation, Kevin, my husband, participated in Pastoral Care of the Sick by visiting patients at the University of Louisville Hospital. I accompanied him, choosing to support him and go where he went, even as I was not required to do so.

I know that we are all called to do something, and since Kevin was ordained in August 2024, I'm still trying to figure that out. However, on this journey I have found that working with him has been a blessing to each of us. During our hospital visits, I may have not been the one offering the prayers, but there were patients, especially women, that may not have shared their stories or fears had I not been there. There were times when this even led others in the room that weren't Catholic to ask for prayers. Visiting patients during difficult times was challenging, but rewarding, and I gained just as much from these visits as him, as we watched the Spirit at work in the lives of others and ourselves. Just as great a blessing were the times we shared and conversations thereafter.

I'm reminded of Ruth's adherence to her mother-in-law, which the Church sees as a profound oath of loyalty, "Where you go, I will go" (Ruth 1:16). I may not follow him everywhere, but supporting him when I can is important to me and appreciated by him. It helps us to grow in our marriage and our walk with the Lord. ✠



DONRITA WEBB

DIACONAL MINISTRY

Annual Retreat

...to live out with "humble charity" diaconal ministry while assisting pastors for the good of God's people



with Paulist Father Steven Bell

Saint Meinrad Archabbey - Bede Hall

June 5-7, 2026

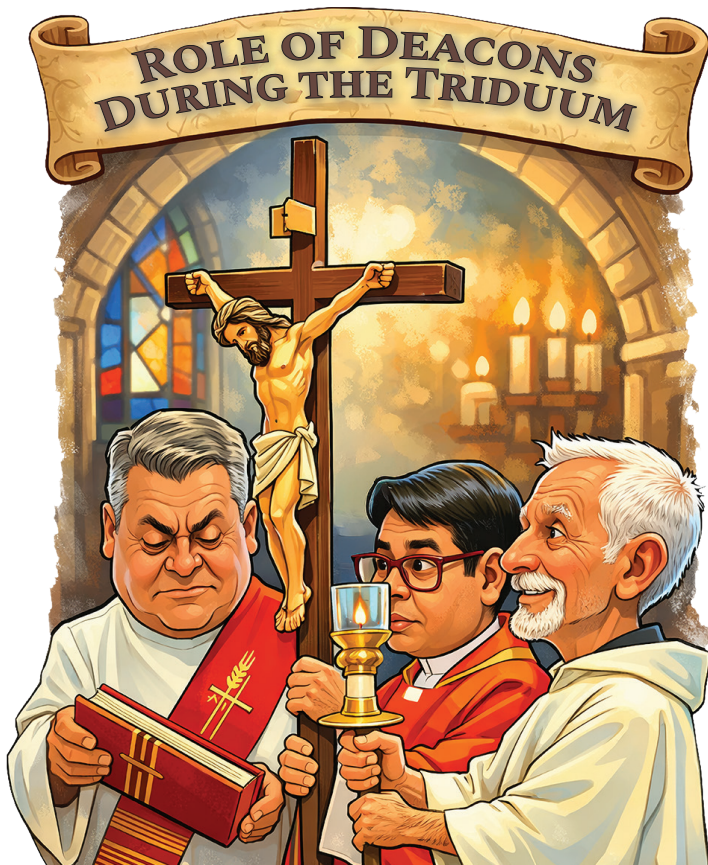
Mark your calendars for the community retreat which satisfies the canonical requirement to make annual spiritual retreat.

Deacons are strongly encouraged to participate in this spiritual retreat to foster personal holiness and to support pastoral ministry, which is intrinsically linked to their role as clerics who connect the altar with the world through charity, preaching, and liturgical service. Together, the community will deepen its union with the Lord and holiness, engage in ongoing formation to realize ministerial effectiveness, and foster a sense of community and ecclesial accountability.

THE RETREATMASTER. The Reverend Steven Bell, CSP, is a member of the Missionary Society of Saint Paul the Apostle (the Paulist Fathers), a Catholic society of apostolic life of pontifical right for men. The mission of the Paulist Fathers is to evangelize by preaching the gospel with the intention of converting people to Catholicism in a manner suited to the culture of the people.

Father Steven is a full-time missionary preacher who leads retreats, revivals, workshops, and parish missions that focus on reconciliation, healing and hope. He has extensive experience in campus ministry, parochial ministry, and media ministry — having served as associate director of Busted Halo, a Paulist Fathers media ministry.

Please be reminded that "[deacons] are obliged to participate in an annual spiritual retreat that is either organized or sanctioned by the Archdiocesan Office of Diaconal Ministry" (*Directory for the Ministry of Permanent Deacons of the Archdiocese of Louisville*, 2024, p. 3; cf. *Code of Canon Law*, can. 276, §4).



Dr. Karen Shadle speaks on the role of the deacon in the Sacred Paschal Triduum by highlighting some key moments that deserve special attention

The Paschal Triduum contains the most important liturgical days of the entire year. Accordingly, its liturgies are to be celebrated with highest solemnity and utmost attention to detail. Each liturgy of the Triduum is unique, having ritual elements that are not found at any other time of year. As deacons, it is critical that you read the rubrics for the Triduum in the Roman Missal and avoid relying on the “regular Sunday” routine.

Allow me to highlight some key moments in the Triduum rites that deserve special attention as you prepare for these holy days as assisting deacons:

Washing of the Feet. This optional rite, if done, is always done by the priest, symbolizing his humility in imitation of Christ’s actions at the Last Supper. Deacons may help, for example, by holding the bowl or towel, but they do not wash the feet, and neither do members of the laity.

Good Friday Liturgy. Although it is not Mass, the presider for Good Friday’s liturgy is always a priest.

Solemn Intercessions. The deacon announces the intentions and may give instructions to stand and kneel.

Unlike other liturgies, the text of these intercessions are fixed and may not be altered from the text in the Missal.

Showing of the Cross. The deacon may be tasked with bringing the cross for adoration from the back of the church, singing “Behold the wood of the Cross...”.

Holy Communion. On Good Friday, the deacon, using a humeral veil, brings the Blessed Sacrament from the place of repose to the altar.

Lucernarium. At the beginning of the Easter Vigil, the deacon carries the Easter Candle and sings “The light of Christ.”

Exsultet. Having just carried in a heavy candle, the deacon now puts it down and chants one of the longest texts in the Roman Ritual. Be prepared to be out of breath!

Double Alleluia. At the end of the Vigil and the Sunday Masses, the deacon dismisses the people with a double alleluia, expressing the particular joy of Easter.

Notice that there are many opportunities for the deacon to chant during the Triduum. If you have any singing voice at all, this is the time to use it. Shorter dialogues like “The light of Christ,” can be done beautifully on a single note or two. The Exsultet, with its length and complexity, should only be chanted by the deacon who can do it well. If you can’t, the Missal allows for a cantor to sing it. Practice with a spouse or trusted colleague and get an honest opinion. I am always available to give one if you need it.

The primary verb of the diaconal role is “assist.” As members of the clergy and leaders in your parish, your presence at all of the Triduum liturgies is presumed, but your role is to assist rather than to take center stage. May we always keep this in mind as we approach these most holy days of the year. ✠



DR
KAREN
SHADLE

Three Parishes, One Mission

Deacon Dean Giulitto's Journey in Nelson County



I am very blessed to be assigned to three rural parishes in southern Nelson County, the heart of the “Kentucky Holy Land,” a region known for its deep Catholic roots and historic significance.

Our cluster comprises Saint Catherine of Alexandria Parish in New Haven, Saint Vincent de Paul Parish in New Hope, and the Immaculate Conception Parish in Culvertown. Additionally, it includes Saint Catherine Academy, a grade school in New Haven, which typically enrolls between 65-75 students. Religious education for children not participating in our school is held at Saint Vincent de Paul Parish. Our administrative team is quite small, consisting of Carmelite of Mary Immaculate Father Biju Chathely (our pastor), myself, an administrative assistant, a business manager, and our school principal, with other roles being staffed by volunteers.

The Kentucky Holy Land, recognized for being the former Diocese of Bardstown, the first diocese established outside of Maryland and the original thirteen colonies. Our three parishes are arranged in

a triangular formation, with the Abbey of Gethsemani at the center. Our area boasts a strong Catholic presence, with parishioners across all three parishes demonstrating a profound devotion and faithfulness to orthodox beliefs. It is not uncommon to witness entire families filling pews during liturgies, accompanied by well-mannered and attentive children of various ages. At Immaculate Conception Parish, our smallest church, the Sunday morning Mass often realizes a full congregation gathered for the Holy Rosary at 6:30 a.m., reflecting the parish's commitment to prayer.

While I am responsible for managing my own schedule, I do not assist at all five weekend Masses. Once a month, however, I preach at every Mass—a weekend we jokingly refer to as “the marathon.” I serve as the coordinator and primary catechist for our Catechumenate and Christian initiation process, oversee all baptism preparation sessions, and conduct the majority of baptisms, as well as the customary funeral vigil services.

To understand why this assignment is so life-giving, it helps first to understand the unique character of the area we serve. Our parishioners exhibit a warm, appreciative, and devoted spirit. Unlike other communities, I have not encountered a similarity of drama here. Upon my initial assignment, several parishioners actually inquired whether I would be relocating to Nelson County.

These assignments require a lot of driving, so living in Elizabethtown, I travel about 500 miles weekly. The closest parish is 25-30 minutes away, the farthest up to 40 minutes, and some funeral homes are over an hour's drive. With few staff and no paid professionals like directors of liturgy or formation, the work can be exhausting and often necessitates a Sunday nap.

Despite the long drives, lean staffing, and full weekends, this assignment has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my ministry. I am, without question, profoundly blessed. ✠



DEACON
DEAN
GIULITTO



ARCHDIOCESE
OF LOUISVILLE

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Deacons
FROM: Dr. F. DeKarlos Blackmon, Director of Diaconal Ministry
SUBJECT: Chrism Mass, Diaconal Ordination, and Presbyteral Ordination
DATE: Friday, March 6, 2026



In the coming months, we will celebrate the Chrism Mass, the Diaconal Ordination of Seminarians Cuong Le and David Vest, and the Presbyteral Ordination of Deacon Evrard Muhoza. In the person of Archbishop Shelton, the presence of Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest, is manifested among the Christian faithful.

These specific liturgies are important in the life of our local church as Archbishop Shelton proclaims the Word of God to all nations and continuously administers the sacraments of faith to the believers (*Lumen Gentium*, 21). This exercise of the fullness of the priesthood is especially realized in the Eucharist, which he offers (*Lumen Gentium*, 26), as the Church derives its very life from the Eucharist (*Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, 1), regarded as “the source and summit of the Christian life” (*Lumen Gentium*, 11; *Catechism*, 1324; *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 10).

As these liturgies are regarded as a symbol of unity within the Church – featuring a comprehensive ceremonial structure and the full array of ministers including not only concelebrating priests with the archbishop, but also deacons, acolytes, and lectors, together with the full and active participation of the lay faithful – the presence and participation of our deacons is imperative (cf. *Caeremoniale Episcoporum*, 119-121).

Each of these liturgies are scheduled at the Cathedral of the Assumption and the deacons will sit to the left in the nave and will assume the postures of the assembly. All deacons are invited to vest in stole and dalmatic for these liturgies. Deacons must bring their own albs and issued archdiocesan white stoles and dalmatics – no vestments will be available at the cathedral. Vesting will take place in the cathedral undercroft (downstairs). Please respond promptly to invitations to participate, as a prompt RSVP will ensure appropriate seating. There will be no other assigned seating at these liturgies.

Chrism Mass
Tuesday, March 31 | 10:30 a.m.

Diaconal Ordination
Saturday, April 11 | 11 a.m.

Presbyteral Ordination
Saturday, May 30 | 11 a.m.

For More Information. The points of contact for the abovementioned information are DeKarlos Blackmon, Deacon Mark Preischel, or Madeline Kincaid (diaconate@archlou.org).

Diaconal Ministry

Maloney Center, 1200 South Shelby Street, Louisville, Kentucky 40203-2627
(502) 636-0296 | (502) 636-2379 (Fax) | diaconate@archlou.org

Happy Birthday

We praise you, because we are wonderfully made; wonderful are your works!

(Psalm 139:14)

MARCH

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 - Jerry Babin | 20 - Tommie Stewart |
| 2 - Virginia Bland | 23 - Mike Edwards |
| 2 - Michael Shumway | 24 - Debbie Jones |
| 3 - Mary Rita Bisig | 24 - Dean Sears |
| 3 - Laurie Warren | 24 - J. Patrick Wright |
| 7 - Tracy Johnson | 26 - Joe Dant |
| 7 - Barbara Klump | 27 - Connie Buehner |
| 8 - Susie Babin | 28 - George Clark |
| 10 - Carolyn Dachille | 28 - Emily McCarty |
| 12 - Carl Fahringer | 30 - Kaye Dalton |
| 17 - Trey Mobley | 30 - Patrick Harris |
| 20 - Greg Beavin | 30 - Monika Villalobos |
| 20 - Bill Clark | |

APRIL

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 - Martha Tribbey | 24 - John Froelich |
| 5 - Kelly Kramer | 25 - Berta Calvert |
| 6 - Darryl Diemer | 26 - May Giulitto |
| 9 - Will Tribbey | 26 - Gina Ryan |
| 10 - Arnold Downs | 28 - Nick Dachille |
| 11 - Naomi Brown | 29 - Shannon Age |
| 12 - Therese Corrigan | 29 - Steve DaPonte |
| 14 - Dean Giulitto | 29 - Devon Strain |
| 14 - Denny Nash | 30 - Nicki Clark |
| 17 - Mike Burchett | 30 - Bruce Warren |
| 20 - John Grant | |
| 23 - Elizabeth Auffrey | |
| 23 - Jane Bartley | |

Archdiocese of Louisville Night at Slugger Field

Friday, March 27, 2026 at 7:15 p.m.

Join us for Opening Night as Archbishop Shelton brings the community together at Slugger Field to kick off the 2026 Louisville Bats season by throwing out the ceremonial first pitch. What a great opportunity for families, friends, and parishes to enjoy a night at the ballpark in a relaxed atmosphere to celebrate the new season.



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Necrology of the Archdiocesan Diaconal Community

Since ancient times, the Church has consistently included prayers for both living and deceased members during every Eucharistic celebration. The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* emphasizes that these intercessions highlight the communal nature of the Eucharist, underscoring that the offering is made for all members, both living and departed, who are called to share in the redemption brought forth by the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

Mildred Ward	March 1, 2006	Mary Ellen McCulloch	March 30, 2014	Ann Caspar	April 24, 2019
Ted Lockett	March 4, 2026	Tom McCulloch	April 3, 2010	Dorothy Beckmann	April 26, 2020
John Churchill	March 7, 2024	Phil Tremblay, C.R.	April 7, 2020	Paul Collard	April 26, 2005
John Simmons	March 10, 2011	Norbert Miller	April 8, 2018	Perry Carney	April 29, 2024
Jarvis Jackson	March 13, 2017	Patricia Ward	April 12, 2007		
Edgie Ronald	March 14, 2010	June Donoghue	April 18, 2007		
James Ward	March 16, 1992	Joyce Edwards	April 18, 2025		
Kenneth Osborne	March 21, 2013	Ray Kramer	April 18, 2001		
Barbara Young	March 22, 2025	Mary Rita Bisig	April 20, 2022		
Bob Caspar	March 24, 2023	Thomas Box	April 21, 2015		
Henry Schetzer	March 24, 1982	Nina Ayers	April 23, 2020		
Octavia Plummer	March 28, 2001	Marty Brown	April 23, 2021		



REQUIESCANT IN PACE